

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 /076 W

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P R 021440Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3629

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: AS OF NOON, AUG 2, NEW GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED. EFFORT TO DUMP PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES IS STILL ALIVE. CONTROVERSY AT AMADORA COMMANDO REGIMENT CONTINUES TO SIMMER. TRANSFERRED UNIT COMMANDER GAVE AUGUST 2 INTERVIEW CHARGING HE WAS VICTIME OF "GOLPE" ENGINEERED BY COMMUNISTS WITHIN UNIT. SITUATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 4 MEETING OF UNIT PERSONNEL WITH NEVES AND OTELO ATTENDING. CARVACHO MAY BE OUT AS REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER IN OPORTO. PRESIDENT STRUCK REALISTIC AND MODERATE TONE IN AIRPORT SPEECH UPON RETURN FROM HELSINKI; HE REITERATED AFM INTENTION TO LEAD COUNTRY TOWARDS A PLURALISTIC SOCIALISM WHICH RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS. MORE VIOLENCE IN NORTH. "A CAPITAL" EDITOR QUIT JULY 31 IN PROTEST

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AGAINST CENSORSHIP BY LEFTIST WORKERS COMMISSION. END SUMMARY

1. STILL NO NEW GOVERNMENT: NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. GOVERNING DIRECTORATE IS NOW MEETING, AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO SAID ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE MADE IN EVENING OF AUGUST 2. SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT EFFORT TO DUMP PRIME MINISTER IS STILL ALIVE. OBSERVERS NOTED THAT AMONG THOSE AT AIRPORT TO GREET PRESIDENT ON HIS RETURN FROM HELSINKI EVENING AUGUST 2 WERE "MODERATES" VITOR CRESPO, MELO ANTUNES, AND VITOR ALVES.

2. ARMY PROBLEMS: SITUATION AT AMADORA COMMANDO REGIMENT CONTINUES TO SIMMER. UNIT COMMANDER, COL. JAIME NEVES, WHOSE TRANSFER ORDERED ON JULY 31 BY COPCON COMMANDER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, PROVIDED DETAILED DESCRIPTION IN AUGUST 2 EXPRESSO INTERVIEW OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO TRANSFER. NEVES DESCRIBED AFFAIR AS A "GOLPE" ENGINEERED BY COMMUNIST OFFICERS OF UNIT. MEETING OF UNIT PERSONNEL, WITH NEVES AND OTELO IN ATTENDANCE, IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4 TO CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER.

3. WE HAVE HEARD THAT A MOVE STIMULATED BY TROOPS IS UNDERWAY TO REMOVE RC MEMBER GENERAL CORVACHO AS COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN MILITARY REGIME (OPORTO). IF CHANGE TAKES PLACE, SUCCESSOR IS LIKELY A MODERATE.

4. PRESIDENT RETURNS: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES STRUCK A REALISTIC AND GENERALLY MODERATE TONE IN AIRPORT REMARKS AUGUST 1 UPON HIS RETURN FROM HELSINKI. HE REFERRED TO READINESS OF WESTERN WORLD TO ASSIST PORTUGAL PROVIDED PORTUGAL CONTINUES ON PATH DEFINED IN POLITICAL ACTION PLAN AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN WHICH AFM DECLARES INTENTION TO BUILD PLURALISTIC FORM OF SOCIALISM RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR UNITY, AN END TO PARTISAN AND PERSONAL RIVALRIES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE AFM PROGRAM TO LEAD COUNTRY TOWARDS PLURALIST SOCIALISM.

5. MORE VIOLENCE: INCIDENTS CONTINUE IN NORTH.
--IN VILA NOVA DE FAMILICAO, WORKERS AND TOWNSPEOPLE GATHERED ON AUGUST 1 OUTSIDE FACILITIES OF GONCALVES TEXTILE WORKS TO DEMAND THAT PREVIOUSLY- PURGED OWNER-MANAGER BE RETURNED. CROWD SUMMARILY DISMISSED LEFTIST ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND WORKERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION AND MADE REOPENING OF PLANT DEPENDANT UPON RETURN OF OWNER. CROWD LATER TRASHED LOCAL MDP/CDE OFFICES AND WERE PREVENTED FROM SACKING PCP OFFICES BY INTERVENTION OF COPCON TROOPS REENFORCED BY ARMORED CARS FROM OPORTO. TWO DEMONSTRATORS WERE WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE FROM PCP OFFICES.

--IN SAN JOAO DE MADEIRA, THREE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED ON JULY 31 WHEN CROWD ATTACKING PRP-BR OFFICES WAS DRIVEN OFF BY GUNFIRE FROM WITHIN.

6. A CAPITAL EDITOR QUITES: IN A MINI-VERSION OF THE REPUBLICA CASE, THE EDITOR OF THE AFTERNOON PAPER "A CAPITAL," DAVID MOURAO FERREIRA, QUIT ON JULY 31 WHEN THE WORKERS COMMISSION REFUSED TO PRINT AN ARTICLE BY MATALIA CORREIA. CORREIA, A WELL KNOWN POET AND SOCIALIST HAS FREQUENTLY WRITTEN ARTICLES IN A CAPITAL CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "WANTED, A FACE" REFERRED TO THE AFM LEADERSHIP. THE A CAPITAL WORKERS COMMISSION CALLED IT COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY. THE WORKERS HAVE SELECTED RUDOLFO VIRIARTE AS NEW EDITOR. (COMMENT: BY PORTUGUESE STANDARDS A CAPITAL HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BETTER AFTERNOON PAPERS. THE DEPARTURE OF FERREIRA IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN DROP IN QUALITY AND PERHAPS A SHIFT TO THE LEFT IN A PAPER THAT MADE AN EFFORT AT BALANCED REPORTING. END COMMENT.)

7. COMMENT: FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE MODERATES, THE LONGER IT TAKES PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES TO FORM A GOVERNMENT THE BETTER. THE PRESIDENT'S AIRPORT COMMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING AND REFLECT THE SAME REALISTIC ASSESSMENT WHICH CHARACTERIZED HIS OPENING SPEECH TO THE JULY 25 AFM ASSEMBLY. HIS ACTIONS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO FALL SHORT OF HIS WORDS.

REMOVAL OF CORVACHO FROM THE OPORTO COMMAND WOULD BE GOOD NEWS. HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE DELIGHTED THE PCP AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE LEFT WHILE GENERATING EVEN STRONGER CRITICISM, MOST OF IT PRIVATE, FROM MODERATE ELEMENTS. ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS, TROOPS WITHIN HIS COMMAND HAVE REFUSED TO OBEY ORDERS TO PROTECT LEFTIST FACILITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04389
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-0928
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750887/aaaacyno.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: AS OF NOON, AUG 2, NEW GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN
TAGS: PINT, PO, (GONCALVES, VASCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006